

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for use in a distributed processing system to specify an application service comprising:

defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation;

validating the operation's signature; ~~and~~

executing said operation on a first processor in said distributed processing system; and

executing said nested operation on a second processor in said distributed processing system.

2. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 further comprising validating the operation's payload after validation of the contents of the payload.

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments comprises defining a schema having a plurality of nested operations.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of nested operations comprises defining a schema having one or more nested operations in one or more of said nested operations.

5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said nested operation.

6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said plurality of nested operations.

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 4 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said one or more nested operations in one or more of said nested operations.

8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of generating a program to perform the defined operations.

9. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of distributing operations to one or more members of the distributed system.

10. (original) A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein said step of defining a schema includes indicating one or more points where distributing operations is beneficial.

11. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of defining a schema comprises defining a schema in XML.

12. (new) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said operation and said nested operation are calls from a client application to a service application.

13. (new) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said step of executing said operation further includes the steps of executing said operation at a first service application and executing said nested operation at a second service application.

14. (new) A method for use in a distributed processing system to specify an application service comprising:

defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation, said operation and said nested operation representing calls from a client application to a service application;

validating the operation's signature; and

executing said operation in said distributed processing system.

15. (new) A method for use in a distributed processing system to specify an application service comprising:

defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments, the schema having a nested operation;

validating the operation's signature; and

executing said operation at a first service application in said distributed processing system, and executing said nested operation at a second service application in said distributed processing system.